

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected. Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-12 have been amended, and claim 2 remains cancelled. New claim 13 has been added. Thus, claims 1 and 3-13 are pending and under consideration. No new matter has been added. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,088,625 ('625).

'625 discusses transferring assembly data having quantity, unit of measure, etc., between a computer-aided design (CAD) computer system and a manufacturing computer system.

The present invention is directed to managing CAD data including assembly data and parts data of a unit, where data indicative of shapes and version information of individual parts of the unit are maintained.

At page 7 of the outstanding Office Action where the Examiner addresses Applicants response to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2004, the Examiner points to column 6, lines 9-33 of '625 as teaching version information of individual parts of an assembly. The indicated portion of '625 specifically states:

"... the operator may define new parts also without closing the current drawing, opening a new drawing or exiting the CAD application, and cause those newly defined parts to be added to the assembly drawing, by executing the data warehouse subsystem "MAKEPART" routine from within the CAD application.

When no additional parts need to be added to the assembly drawing, the operator causes the completed assembly and thus its corresponding assembly data to be created by executing the data warehouse subsystem "MAKEPART" routine from within the computer aided design application. As when creating a component, the operator need not exit the CAD application to create assembly data. The data warehouse subsystem automatically assigns a part number to the created assembly if one was not previously defined, requests that the operator enter a description for the assembly, saves the assembly drawing and assembly data, and causes the database system to store a bill of materials and master record for the created assembly. The master record for an assembly contains data which may include, but is not limited to, the following: quantity, unit of measure, is.sub.-- stock.sub.-- flag, is.sub.-- purchased.sub.-- flag, vendor notes, general notes, phantom notes, commodity code, product code, general ledger account number, lead time, estimated cost, and item type".

As can be seen from the above discussion, '625 does not discuss "parts data including data about shapes of individual parts and version information about versions of the individual parts", as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 10-12 of the present application. In contrast, '625 is directed to assigning a part number to a created *assembly*, if one was not previously defined, for transmission of the assembly data to a manufacturing control system (see, col. 6, lines 34-38 of '625). This means that '625 does not manage or maintain information of "individual parts" including "shapes" and "version information" of the individual parts, as recited in each of the independent claims 1 and 10-12 of the present application.

For example, '625 discusses comparing differences between a bill of material for a newly created assembly and a corresponding previously created assembly (see, col. 6, lines 48-52 of '625), and updating prior versions of the assembly data (see, col. 10, lines 47-53 of '625). This means that '625 is limited to managing assembly data that is inclusive of the parts used in the assembly and does not manage information of "individual" parts.

For the above-discussed reason, the Examiner does not appear to have established a priori case of anticipation. For this reason it is requested that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10-12 be withdrawn.

For at least the above-mentioned and additional reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1 and 10-12 are patentably distinguishable over '625. For example, as recited in claim 3, the "parts data includes those of different versions of the individual parts". The '625 system does not teach or suggest part data that includes "different versions" of the individual parts forming an assembly data of a unit.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of '625 and an Official Notice taken by the Examiner, and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over '625 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,777,877 ('877).

For at least the above-mentioned reasons distinguishing independent claim 1, dependent claims 4, 8 and 9 depending from claim 1 are patentably distinguishable over '625.

The Examiner acknowledges that '625 does not teach the recitations of claims 8 and 9, thus the Examiner gives Official Notice that when a copy of a file is produced, all information about the data file is copied, and that editing a copy of an original document produces a new one.

Claims 8 and 9 of the present application respectively recite, “assigning initialized version information to a copy of the assembly data when the copy of the assembly data is made” and “diverting... the version information about the assembly data of the first product to diverted assembly data of the second product”. The version information recites in claims 8 and 9 is “about all individual parts” including “shapes of the parts” (independent claim 1 upon which claims 8 and 9 depend).

The Official Notice in combination with the discussions of ‘625 does not teach or suggest, “assigning initialized version information to a copy of the assembly data” (claim 8) and “diverting... the version information about the assembly data of the first product to diverted assembly data of the second product” (claim 9), where the version information has versions of all individual parts and shapes of the parts (claim 1).

The Examiner relies on the combination of ‘625 and ‘877 to reject dependent claim 4. The ‘877 system discusses indicating “new” and “old” when referring to part numbers resulting from recomposition of the parts based on predetermined rules (see, column 7, lines 59-65 of ‘877).

The combination of ‘625 and ‘877 does not teach or suggest, “displaying individual parts of the unit based on parts data of a version different from a latest version when the display request is directed to states of the individual parts at registration of the parts data”, as recited in claim 4.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully traversed.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 13 is added to emphasize that the present invention is directed to managing computer-aided design data. The management of the data includes, “storing version information defining a combination of individual parts that form a unit, the version information indicative of a version of each individual part that form the unit” and “referencing the version information of each of the individual parts and the combination of the individual parts forming the unit when creating a new combination of the individual parts”. This enables a user, for example, to easily compare a particular combination of individual parts of a unit formed using different versions of the individual parts with previous/subsequent combination of the individual parts.

It is respectfully asserted that new claim 13 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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